

Pokemon: Masters

by Jaxxon

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Summary: Ash is now Destiny, but how will he cope with it?

1. On the Road Again

> <meta name="Generator"> Pok  mon: Masters

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> Chapter One      On the Road Again<p>

"All right, Jessie," Ash said as he recalled Squirtle, "try this one."

> Ash and Jessie were having a two on two pok  mon match. Ash had already beat Arbok with Squirtle but lost to Lickitung.

"Jigglypuff, I choose you," he said as he tossed in a pok  ball.

> "Jiggly," she greeted.
 "This should be easy," Jessie smirked.

"Lickitung, wrap it with your tongue."

> "Lick," it cried as its tongue went after Jigglypuff.

"Jigglypuff, dodge it and use sing," Ash yelled.

> "What?" Jessie replied. "Are you trying to put us all to sleep?"
 Ash smiled as Jigglypuff jumped out of Lickitung's way and began her song. When both rival pok  mon and trainer were asleep, Jigglypuff blew herself up.

> "Jigglypuff," she said as she pulled out a black maker.
 "Hold it," Ash said as he ran up to his pok  mon. "I thought I showed how you to focus that attack."

> "Jiggly," she sighed.
 "Guess we got to train some more," Ash said as he shook Jessie awake.

> "Not now, James," she said waving him off. "Just a few more minutes."
 "Ah, Jessie, it's me, Ash," he said to the half-awake girl.

> "Huh?" she said as she opened her eyes. When she saw who it was over her, she jumped up.
 "Don't ever do that again," she screamed as she brought a mallet onto his head.

> "Yes, ma'am," a dazed Ash replied.
 Jessie recalled her still sleeping Lickitung as Ash picked himself off the ground. He had been training for next year's Pok  mon League Competition, but he always

had distractions around.

> "We better get back to the Pok  mon Center," Jessie told him.

"Right," Ash replied as they headed down the path.

"I'll bet you this time, Brock," James said as he wildly mashed the buttons of the controller.

> "I don't think so," Brock laughed as he calmly made a few quick moves with his.
 Misty laughed. "You're both mine," Misty replied.

> "What just happened?" two puzzled boys asked.
 Pikachu was laughing hysterically. After fifteen rounds of Mario Kart 64, Misty still held the lead in the battle mode.

> "Maybe I should be Bowser," Brock said as the door to their room opened.
 "What are guys up to?" Ash asked as Jessie fell on the bed and he sat down next to Misty.

> "Betting these two at Mario Kart," Misty beamed.
 "Well," Ash said noticing the looks on the older guys faces, "shouldn't we check out soon?"

> "Not until our pok  mon are healed," Jessie said from the bed.

"That should be in an hour."
 "How about another game?" Brock and James suggested.

> "How about we go someplace alone?" Ash whispered into Misty's ear.
 "Sure," Misty giggled. "See you guys later."

> As the couple left the three older teens and pok  mon, Brock sighed. "It's just not fair!"
 "What's not fair?" James asked.

"With Misty gone, I got a chance of betting you."

> Brock shook his head. "And I thought Ash was dense." He turned to the confused ex-Rocket. "Both you and Ash have girlfriends, and I don't."
 "I have a girlfriend?" James asked with a shocked look on his face. He looked over at Jessie who had fallen asleep on the bed. "Oh, Jessie isn't my girlfriend."

> "Sure, James," Brock sighed. "Sure."<p>

"Here are your pok  mon," Nurse Joy said as she handed Jessie and Ash their pok  mon.

> "Thanks," Ash said as he put Squirtle's pok  ball back on his belt.
 "Have a nice day," Nurse Joy smiled as the group walked out of the Pok  mon Center.

> "Where to now?" Ash asked.
 "How about we head to the Viridian Forest," James said. "I want to get some bug pok  mon."

> "Yuck," Misty replied. "Not more bugs. How about we had to the beach. I want to catch some water pok  mon."
 Jessie glared at Ash. "Don't side with your girlfriend if you know what's good for you," she said as she pulled out a mallet. "I'm with James on this one."

> Ash sighed. Luckily, he was saved by Brock. "How about we head over to the Safari Zone. I managed to get some permits to let us capture pok  mon there."
 "That's great, Brock," Ash cheered. "Let's go."

"I can't believe this," a blonde-hair boy said. "We used to be on top."

> "It's Dad's fault," a younger black-hair boy replied. "He was too worked up about that Ketchum kid."
 "Shut up," said another black-hair boy who was taller than the other two. "Dad must have had a good reason."

> While these three argued, a fourth and older boy was watching them. "Be quiet, all of you."
 The three younger boys looked at their older brother. "Rob is right," he told them. "Dad always had a reason for what he did."

> "And look where it got him, Shane," the younger black-hair boy replied. "He's in jail, and Team Rocket is gone."
 The older boy laughed. "You are so simple minded, Matt," he said. "Now Dad has an even better alibi for running his empire."
> "What do you mean?" the blond boy asked.
 "You'll see, Jake," Shane answered.

"Rocket, you have a visitor," the guard said to the man lying on the cot.

> "Thank you," he said as he was led to the visiting room.
 Waiting for him was an eighteen-year-old young man wearing a black suit. "Hello, Shane," he greeted his visitor.

> "Hello, Father," Shane replied. "I trust you have been treated well."
 "Yes," the prisoner replied. "How is the family?"

> "My brothers are a little confused," Shane replied, "but I think they will understand soon enough."
 "Good," Giovanni said, "but how about little Phil?"

> Shane dropped his head. "He has been real difficult since you were arrested."
 "He must be disciplined," Giovanni said grimly.

> "I will take care of it then," Shane replied.
 "Good," Giovanni said to his son. "Is there anything else?"

> "Not really," he answered. "Some of the family is still scattered, but most have found their way home."
 "Give it some time," he said as the guard informed visiting hours were almost over. "Soon, everything will be back to business as usual."

"I can't believe I didn't catch a single pokÃ©mon," Ash whined at the lodge.

> "Cheer up, Ash," Misty said as she was polishing a pokÃ©ball. "You can't capture every pokÃ©mon in one day."
 "That's easy for you to say," Ash replied. "You caught a Shellder, Brock caught a Rhyhorn, and Jessie caught a DoDuo."

> "Hey, you forgot about me," James said from across the room. "I caught a Tauros, an Exeggcute, and a Slowpoke."
 "Don't remind me," Ash muttered. He leaned back in the couch he was sitting on. "Some Destiny I'm turning out to be. Even James is capturing more pokÃ©mon than me."

> "Pika?" Pikachu asked his trainer.
 "I'll be fine," Ash told his pokÃ©mon. "I just feel like I'm going to disappoint everyone."

> "Don't worry, Ash," Misty said trying to comfort him. "It's just one day. I'm sure you capture something tomorrow."
 Ash smiled at her. "Thanks, Misty." He looked out the window at the stars. "I'm going out for a walk."

> "Mind if I come?" Misty asked.
 "I just want a little time to think," he said as he headed for the door. "Besides, I want to get some wood for that fireplace over there."

> "A cozy fire, how romantic," Misty sighed. "All right, just hurry back."
 Ash picked up his pokÃ©ball belt which he had laid on a table. "I will."

"Bulbasaur, chop down that limb with your vine whip." Ash told the little pokÃ©mon.

> "Bulba," he replied as the limb fell to the ground.
 "Thank you," Ash said as he added it to the pile of wood he had already collect. "Return."

> After putting the pokÃ©ball on his belt, Ash leaned against a tree. The past year had been one of the most eventful of his life. He found his love, his father's murderer, and a new destiny, but he felt he was going to mess it all up.
 He sighed as he heard some movement in the bushes. He turned and saw a male Nidoran leap out into the

open.

> "Ran ran," it challenge.
 "Wow, a Nidoran," Ash said.

"Jigglypuff, I choose you."

> "Jiggly?" she asked at being woken up.
 "Jigglypuff, use slap and weaken that Nidoran," Ash said.

> "Jigglypuff," she replied as she jumped in front of the wild pokÃ©mon and slapped it a few times.
 "Ran ran," it cried.

> "All right, Jigglypuff," he thanked the pokÃ©mon. "Now, pokÃ©ball go."
 The pokÃ©ball hit the Nidoran on the head, and it disappeared inside. Ash and Jigglypuff watched as it rocked a few times and finally stopped. It disappeared, and both jumped for joy.

> "I caught a Nidoran," Ash shouted.
 "Jiggly," Jigglypuff cheered.

> Ash recalled Jigglypuff and picked up the pile of wood. Maybe everything will be all right, Ash thought as he walked into the lodge.

> Misty was sleeping on the couch while he could hear the others snoring from the bedrooms. Ash smiled as he placed the wood in the fireplace and lit them. Ash sat and watched Misty while the flames' light danced on her face.
 "My own angel," he said as he watched the sleeping girl. He gently nudged her.

> "Ash?" she said as she woke up. "You were out for a long time."
 "I had a lot to think about," he replied as he wrapped his arm around her and stared at the fire.

> "You seem better now," she said as she looked into his face.
 Ash turned from the fire and looked at the girl in his arms. "I also caught a new pokÃ©mon," he replied.

> "That's nice," she said as she tried to snuggle into a closer position. "What type?"
 "A Nidoran," he answered.

> "Well," Misty said as she closed her eyes, "I hope you won't doubt yourself for awhile now."
 "Why should I?" Ash laughed. "After all, I'm going to be a PokÃ©mon Master."

> Misty laughed. "Looks like I have the old Ash back."<p>

2. Taking Care of Business

> <meta name="Generator"> PokÃ©mon: Masters

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> Chapter Two â€" Taking Care of Business<p>

A guard knocks against the wall of the telephone booth. "Five minutes, Rocket."

> "Yes, sir," Giovanni replied. He thought in about four more weeks he running this place. The warden was corrupt enough for him to control, but the guards would take time.
 "So how is little Phil?" he said into the receiver.

> "He knows his place now, Dad," the voice on the other end replied. "Shane is watching right now."
 "Now that Phil is taken care of," Giovanni said as he eyed the guard other in the corner, "I have a little favor to ask you."

> "What?"
 "Arrange for a lawyer to get Butch and Cassidy released," he answered. "Their sentence is almost up anyway, so that shouldn't be too hard of a problem."

> "I get on it right away," the voice replied. "Anything else?"
 "That's all for now," Giovanni said as the guard came to return him to his cell.

After spending three days in the Safari Zone, Jessie and James had collected their limit of pok  mon. Jessie had besides her Arbok and Lickitung a Doduo, a Scyther, a Pinsir, and a Paras. James had made a big haul on the first day with getting a Tauros, an Exeggcute, and a Slowpoke, and he later captured a Ponyta. Ash, Misty, and Brock on the other hand did not do as well. They decided to let Jessie and James collect some more pok  mon since they already captured a new pok  mon each.

> "Where to now?" James asked as they walked away from the Safari Zone.
 "How about Fuchsia City?" Ash suggested.

> "Why do you want to go there?" Misty asked.
 "No reason," Ash replied. "It's just the closest town."

> "Well, I want to go to Celadon," Misty said. "I want to see if Erika has any new perfumes."
 "That sounds great," Jessie said. "We could hit the mall there."

> The mention of that four-letter word sent a chill down the boys' spines. "Think we should suggestion something else?" Brock whispered to Ash and James.
 "And end up air born," James replied. "There's no way around this."

> Ash nodded. "James, that may have been the smartest thing you said this week."<p>

After leaving Pikachu, Togepi, and Meowth with the rest of their pok  mon at the Pok  mon Center, Misty and Jessie dragged the three reluctant boys to the mall. Brock had it easy since neither of the girls were his girlfriend, but that left Ash and James carrying their load.

> "A little help here would be nice," Ash complained to Brock. Ash was carrying a pile of boxes twice his size while Brock only had two bags.
 "The price you pay for having a girlfriend," Brock laughed.

> "What about me?" James whined since he was carrying all of Jessie's purchases. "She's not even my girlfriend."
 "Right," both Ash and Brock replied.

> "Oh, look, Misty," they heard Jessie squeal. "I bet this swimsuit will look great on me."
 "And I really like this bikini," Misty replied.

> "Bikini," Ash sighed as he began to daydream.
 "But Misty, isn't that a size or two small for you?" Jessie asked.

> Brock and James almost fell over when Ash ran past them.
 "You know," James commented as he tried to regain the stability of the stack of boxes, "Ash is starting to act a lot like you."

> "Yeah," Brock smirked. "Our little boy is growing up."<p>

They decided to return to the Pok  mon Center and leave their stuff there before going to see Erika. "Mind if I make a phone call?" Ash asked the others.

> "Go ahead," Misty said as she went to pick up their pok  mon.
 Ash dialed up Professor Oak.

> "Hello?" the voice of a young man asked.
 "Tracey," Ash replied. "It's me, Ash."

> The video monitor came on revealing the Pok  mon Watcher. "We just got your Nidoran," Tracey said. "It looks very healthy."
 "That's good," he replied. "We just came back from the Safari Zone. I'm thankful I didn't catch another herd of Tauros."

> Tracey laughed. "So that's where they all came from."
 "Jessie and James captured a bunch of new pok  mon," Ash continued. "I wonder if they are going to go off and collect badges soon."

> "Oh, that reminds me," Tracey said as he walked out of the camera's view. He returned with a flyer in his hands. "They're looking for a

new gym leader in Viridian since Giovanni was arrested."
 "I'm surprised they haven't done it already," Ash replied.
> "Seems no can best the test," Tracey answered. "Maybe you should try."
 "I'll think about it," Ash said.
> "Ash, come on," Misty yelled from the exit.
 "Gotta go," Ash told his friend as he hung up.

"After several accidents in its laboratories, officials at Silph Co. have announced that they have everything under control," the radio in Erika's shop said.

> "Monica," Erika said to her assistant. "Please switch it something else."
 "All right," Monica replied as she changed the station.

> "Ash, I hope you won't embarrass me like you did last time," a voice from outside said.
 "Meowth, I don't want to dress him like a girl again," another said. "One cross-dresser is enough."

> "Hey," a third voice said. "If you had better costumes, I wouldn't had toâ€¦!"
 "Hold it," Erika said as the group walked into her store. "I don't want any fighting in here."

> "Sure thing," Brock said as he ran up to Erika. "You're so pretty."
 "Monica," Erika called to her assistant. "Bring me the essence of Gloom."

> "No!" Jessie, James, and Meowth cried. They pulled Brock away from Erika.
 Erika laughed at their reaction. "What can I do for you?"

> "I wanted to see if you had any new fragrances," Misty said while Meowth leashed Brock to a pole outside.
 "Try this one then," Erika said as she pulled out a vial containing a blue liquid.

> Misty dabbed a bit on her hand and sniffed it. "That's wonderful," she exhaled.
 "Let me see," Jessie said as she sampled the perfume. "It's good but not my style."

> "Well," Erika smiled, "how about this one?"
 She had a vial containing a green liquid in her hand. Jessie washed off her hands and sampled the perfume.

> "That's better," she sighed.
 While the two girls continued to sample Erika's perfumes, Pikachu and Togepi were allured by another sent.

> "Pika?" Pikachu sighed as he sniffed the air.
 "Yeah, I smell it too," Ash replied. "I don't think Erika keeps ketchup-covered apples here, though."

> Pikachu dropped his head. He knew Ash was probably right.
 He looked out at Brock outside. "Meowth, don't you think tying him to that pole was a bit harsh?"

> Meowth looked up at him. "And getting a whiff of that essence of Gloom isn't?"
 Ash thought about that. "You got a point," he admitted.

"Seeing that you have several favorable reports from the administrator of your correctional facility," a judge said to the two defendants before, "and that your sentence is almost completed, I hereby grant you six months parole."

> "Thank you, your honor," the defendants' lawyer replied.
 "Court is in recess," the judge said as he walked to his chambers.

> "Well, Cassidy," a hoarse voice said, "look's like we're free."
 "Yeah," the blond girl replied. "Time for some Love Power."

> They walked outside and saw a limousine waiting for them. The window rolled down, and a voice told them to get end. They complied since they recognized the chauffeur as Julie, Giovanni's former

assistant.
 When inside, they saw a thirteen-year-old blond-hair boy sitting in front of them. "I hope everything went well," he said as Julie closed the door.

> "We're here, aren't we," Cassidy replied. "I didn't expect one of Giovanni's brats to spring us."
 "Ah, Cassidy," Butch whispered to his partner. "I don't think it's such a good idea to mouth off to the boss's kid."

> Jake leaned forward. "Be grateful you're dealing with me instead of Matt," he told them. "He's been on edge ever since Dad was arrested."
 Butch and Cassidy looked at each other. They had heard rumors about this but never thought it possible. "Who's running Team Rocket, then?" Butch asked.

> "Dad still is in charge," the younger boy replied, "but Shane handles the day to day operations."
 The boy pushed a button on the console next to him. "Julie, take us back to HQ."

> "Right away, sir," she replied.
 He turned back to the older teens. "Dad, wanted you out," he told them. "Since Shane and Rob are both busy with other matters, you'll report directly to me. Got that?"

> Butch and Cassidy sighed. "Yes, sir."<p>

After leaving Erika's store, Brock spent five minutes complaining about being tied up. Ash and James then spent the next ten minutes dragging his body after being knocked unconscious by Jessie.

> "Jessie," Ash said as they finally arrived to the PokÃ©mon Center, "you really need to learn to control your temper."
 Jessie eyed him causing Ash to retreat behind Misty.

> "Coward," Misty laughed.
 "Smart, I think," Meowth muttered under his breath.

> "Pikachu," the yellow pokÃ©mon laughed.
 Jessie ignored the comments from the peanut gallery as they went up to their rooms.

> "See you, tomorrow," Ash said as he and James dropped Brock on the floor of their room.
 "No, kiss good-night?" Misty asked with a smirk on her face.

> "Oh, brother," Meowth sighed as the two kissed. "Are they going to be like this for now on?"
 "Pika?" Pikachu shrugged.

> "I think I preferred it when they were always fighting," Meowth added as he got into his bed.<p>

3. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> Ash and James had been sent out to refill the cantens while Brock and the girls set up camp

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> Chapter Three â€" Masters of the Heart<p>

Ash and James had been sent out to refill the canteens while Brock and the girls set up camp. After they found a stream and fill the canteens with water, they decided to rest before walking back to the other.

> "James, why don't you say Jessie's your girlfriend?" Ash asked the older boy.
 James sighed. "She just isn't, Ash," he replied. "We're just friends."

> "But you two have been together longer than Misty and me," Ash commented. "Are you saying that since you meet her, you never wanted to be more than friends?"
 James did not answer the question, but Ash knew the answer. "We should get back to camp," James replied.

> "Sure," Ash sighed.<p>

"As soon as Ash and James get back," Brock told the girls who had finished setting up camp, "we can eat dinner."

> "Okay, Brock," Misty replied. Pikachu and Meowth were busy playing poker with Charizard, Squirtle, and Bulbasaur.
 "Read 'em and weep," Meowth beamed. "Full house."

> When Pikachu, Squirtle, and Bulbasaur threw their cards down on the tree stump they were using as a table, Meowth greedily reached to grab the pot until Charizard showed his cards with a huge grin.
 "What?!" Meowth screamed. "A royal flush!"

> "Bulbasaur (I'm broke)" Bulbasaur sighed.
 "Squirtle," Squirtle agreed.

> "Pi pikapi (I want my money back)" Pikachu replied as he shuffled the deck.
 "Me too," Meowth said as he glared at the dragon who was counting his chips.

> "(Think I'll cash in now)" he roared as he left the table.
 "Hey, come back here with my money," Meowth yelled as Charizard disappeared into his pokéball.

> "Pi cha ka," Pikachu said as he shook the pokéball furiously. Hearing something like a raspberry, both pokémon gave up.
 Misty laughed at the scene of the two pokémon wondering to join Squirtle and Bulbasaur who were playing with Togepi. She looked over at Jessie who was watching the sunset.

> "So, how often does James take you out," Misty asked. It had been a while since her and Ash had chance for a date, and she wanted to know if this was unusual.
 "Oh," Jessie sighed with a blush, "me and James don't date."

> Hearing this, Meowth started laughing. "You two do make such a cute couple, though," he replied.
 "Who asked you?" Jessie yelled back.

> Misty laughed nervously at this response. "Sorry," she said, "I just thought thatâ€¦"
 "Please," Jessie interrupted. "Me and James."

> "That's what Ash and Misty used to say," Brock said from where he was cooking dinner.
 This time both Misty and Jessie blushed. Jessie was about to respond to this challenge when James and Ash appeared with the canteens.

> "Sorry it took so long," Ash said as he sat next to Misty. "The stream was further away than we thought."
 "We would've gotten back sooner," James grumbled as he sat on the ground across from Jessie, "if Ash hadn't gotten us lost."

> Misty laughed. "I guess some things never change," she said as Ash blushed from embarrassment.
 Jessie sighed as she watched the couple begin a petty argument. It seemed more from play than anything serious, and it reminded her of her own feeling for the boy next to her.

> James, on the other hand, was ignoring them all together. He was too busy staring at Jessie. Ever since they had first met at pokémon Tech, they had been close friends, but when they started working together in Team Rocket, he began to notice something strange about his friend. She is so beautiful, he thought.

> The two couples were interrupted when Brock announced that dinner was ready. Ash and Misty stopped their fighting and grabbed some food. Jessie and James followed after them still thinking about each other.<p>

Shane Rocket looked out the eleventh floor window of the Silph Co. headquarters in Saffron. He reflected back at the many years that he had spent learning how to replace his father but never dreamed it would be so soon. A knock at the door broke his meditation.

> "Enter," he said.
 "Mr. Rocket," a minor executive greeted as he came into the office, "I have here the lab reports you requested."

> Shane never turned away from the window. "Leave them on desk and return to your duties," he replied emotionlessly.
 "Yes, sir."
> When Shane heard the door closed, he looked back out the window. The sun was sinking beneath the horizon ending the day.
 Soon will come the night, Shane thought as the twilight's glow lingered. _The cold night._

Butch and Cassidy were waiting by a videophone impatiently.
> "The little twerp should've called by now," Butch grumbled.
 Cassidy did not reply. She was too busy thinking about the new pokÃ©mon that they were given since their old ones were still in police custody.
> The phones ringing startled both teens, but Cassidy composed herself before she answered. "Hello?"
 The videoscreen came on revealing Jake Rocket. "I got your first assignment," he told them. "You are going to Viridian City and battle for control of the gym."

> "Right, boss," Cassidy replied.
 "Don't screw this up," Jake warned them.
> Butch and Cassidy both gulped. This kid may be younger than they, but he had all the power.
 They let out a sigh of relief when the monitor went blank.
> "Guess, we're on the road to Viridian City," Butch sighed.
 "Come on," Cassidy replied. "Let's get going."

"Your pokÃ©mon will be ready in about an hour," Nurse Joy told the trainers.
> "Thank you," Brock said as he stared at her.
 "Snap out of it," Jessie yelled as she brought her mallet on his head.
> "Thank you very much, Jessie," Ash replied as he lifted the now unconscious Brock up. "I don't know whose worst, you or Misty."
 Both girls glared at him, but he held Brock up as a shield.
> "Hurry up, Ash," James called trying to save his friend. "We need to sign up for the match."
 Misty looked over at Ash. "Your not really going to be a gym leader are you?"
> Ash laughed. "No," he said as he followed James out the door. "What's being a gym leader compared to being a PokÃ©mon Master?"
 Misty glared at him again. "Bet you couldn't even do that job right," she called.

They were only a few trainers at the sign up booth for the matches. This was due to the fact that they had to pass a written test in order to compete. James lucked out since he picked up a few things from working with Giovanni and placed high enough to enter.
> While James stood in line to register, Ash looked over the rest of the test results. He then noticed who placed above all the rest.
 "How ya doin', Ash?" a familiar voice said from behind him.
> "What are you up to, AJ?" Ash said before he turned around.
 When Ash turned around, he saw that AJ's Sandshrew had evolved into a Sandslash. "Just trying out to be the gym leader here," he replied. "I figured I be the best for the job especially since I have over five hundred victories."
> Ash's mouth dropped when he heard this. "Over five hundred?"
 AJ shrugged. "I lost count past 532," he replied.
> Ash shook his head. "You're incredible, AJ," he sighed.
 James came running back from the table to join the Ash. "I got a match in a few hours," he told him. "Oh, hello," he said when he noticed AJ.

"Have we met before?"

> "Sure you have," Ash replied. "This is AJ, the guy who had the 'unofficial' gym."
 James thought for a moment then remembered what Ash was talking about. "Right the guy who really bet Pikachu," he said.

> Ash growled at him, and AJ laughed. "Yep," he said with a smile. "That was me and good ole Sandslash here."
 "Sandslash," the pok  mon said as his trainer rubbed his head.

> "Let's go get Jessie and the others," James said as he pulled on Ash's sleeve. "I want her   uh, I mean, them to see me at my first match."
 Ash and AJ both laughed at James's slip up. "Someone has a crush," AJ laughed.

> "We're just friends," James sighed.
 "Please," Ash replied as he tried to stop laughing. "But you're right. Besides, I promised Misty I would take her out for lunch."

> AJ blinked at his old friend. "You and the red-head got together?"
 "Yeah," James replied. "They're quiet sickening about it too."

> "At least we don't try to hid it," Ash snapped back. James just laughed nervously at this.
 "See you guys later," AJ said as Ash and James headed back to the Pok  mon Center.

"I'll sign up," Cassidy told Butch, "since I passed the written test."

> Butch murmured something under his breath. Even with cheating, he still failed the test.
 After registering, Cassidy looked at the schedule. "My first match is tomorrow morning," she said when she saw her name.

> "Good," Butch replied. "That give us all night to rig the ring."
 Cassidy laughed. "No way I'm losing this."

Misty and Ash had spent about fifteen minutes staring at each other before they ordered at the diner.

> While waiting for their order to arrive, Ash asked, "What do you think about Jessie and James?"
 Misty laughed. "They deserve each other," she replied.

> "Now if we could only get them to admit that," Ash agreed.
 "That's the hard part," Misty sighed

> Ash nodded in agreement when they're food arrived. "Oh, I ran into AJ today," Ash told her as she began eating her meal.
 "Is he here to compete for the gym?" she asked between bites.

> "Yeah," Ash replied. "I feel sorry for James."
 Misty laughed. "You're right."

James was down to his Wheezing, but his opponent only had a Pidgey left.

> "Wheezing, sludge attack," James called.
 "Wheezing," the pok  mon replied as the black goo fell on the Pidgey, sending it to the ground.

> The referee raised the red flag. "Pidgey is out, match goes to Wheezing and James."
 James jumped around the arena. "I won, I won!"

> While Jessie went up to congratulate him, Ash, Misty, and Brock began to scheme on how to get the two together.<p>

4. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> "Will the trainers please approach the arena," the judge said in the Viridian gym

Pok mon: Masters

> Chapter Four     Battle for the Gym<p>

"Will the trainers please approach the arena," the judge said in the Viridian gym.

> Cassidy took the green corner while some other trainer took the red.
 "This will be a two-on-two match, no time limit," the judge told them.

> "Go, Vileplume," Cassidy called as she threw in a pok ball.

"Go, Arcanine," the other trainer said as his pok mon appeared.

> "Vileplume, stun spore," Cassidy ordered.
 "Flamethrower," the other trainer replied. The Arcanine's flamethrower attack burnt away the on-coming spores but lost all its power after that.

> "All right," Cassidy growled. "Use Solar Beam."
 "Arcanine, fire blast," the other trainer called.

> Before Vileplume could charge up its solar beam attack, Arcanine's fire blast sent it to the edge of the field while its petals were aflame.
 "Vileplume, return," Cassidy sighed as she recalled her pok mon. She pulled out another pok mon. "Wartortle, I choose you."

> "Arcanine, take down attack," the other trainer replied when he saw he had lost the elemental advantage."
 "Wartortle, use your bubble beam," Cassidy ordered.

> Arcanine ran head first into the bubbles and collapse from the lost of its fire.
 "Arcanine," the trainer cried. "Return. Go, Magnemite."

> Butch watched from the side of the arena. "Cassidy, lost the advantage," he said to himself. "Good thing I'm around."
 He watched as the Magnemite thundershocked the Wartortle who had withdrew into its shell. He pulled out a large magnet and pointed to the arena. The electric pok mon, sensing its attraction, turned away from its opponent. Wartortle took the opportunity to head bash the thing to the ground. The judge announced that Cassidy was the winner.

> Butch smirked as he put the magnet back into his backpack. "Only three more rounds," he laughed as he joined Cassidy by the exit.<p>

"Victory to the green trainer," the judge announced.

> "Good work, Butterfree," AJ told his pok mon as it returned to its pok ball.
 AJ walked over to Ash, Misty, and Brock who had just returned from James's match.

> "I'm in the semi-finals now," he told them.
 "So is James," Ash replied as they walked to the Pok mon Center. "Never thought that he would have gotten this far."

> "He really has improved," Brock commented. "And with those new pok mon from the Safari Zone, he has a better selection."
 "But he's still no match for me," AJ laughed. "I'll show him if he's my next match."

That night, Butch and Cassidy were back in their hotel room. Butch was watching TV while Cassidy was taking a nap. She had a long day with her two matches. She had placed into the semi-finals. Both laughed when they saw that James had also made it that far too.

> When someone knocked, Butch turned the television and looked to see who it was. "Great," he sighed.
 He opened the door to reveal a thirteen-year old boy. "Nice to see you two are doing so well," Jake said as he entered the room uninvited.

> Butch did not know if that was meant as a compliment, insult, or

nothing at all. "Thanks, boss."
 Jake looked over at the sleeping girl on the bed. "Wake up," he said as he shook her.

> "Huh?" she asked still half asleep. She opened her eyes and saw Jake Rocket standing over her.
 "Boss!" she shouted as she jumped up.

> Jake eyed the couple. "I just came to make sure everything was going as planned."
 "I made it the semi-final," Cassidy gloated.

> "I see," Jake replied. "I trust you'll make sure she wins."

"Yes, sir," Butch said to the younger boy.

> Jake looked out the window of the room. "I'll stick around to make sure you two don't mess this up," he told them.
 "Yes, sir," they sighed.

The next morning, James woke up early to see who he was competing in his next match. He sneaked quietly out of the room he was sharing with Brock. In the lobby of the PokÃ©mon Center, he saw Jessie was also up.

> "Morning, Jes," he greeted.
 Jessie looked up from her coffee with a smile. "Good morning, James," she replied. "Ready for your next match?"

> "Actually, I was just going out to see who I was competing," he answered.
 "How about some breakfast first?" she offered.

> James enjoyed of spending some time with her. "Sure," he said as he walked over the counter with a box of donuts on it.<p>

Shane had spent the night at his office in the Silph Co. HQ. He was awakened from his sleep when his phone began to ring. Annoyed at the intrusion, he picked it up. "What?" he barked.

> Two of his younger brothers, Rob and Matt, appeared on the screen. "We thought you should know," Rob, the elder of the two, replied, "Jake ran off to Viridian to oversee the takeover of the gym."
 "You woke me up for that?" Shane asked as his generally cold demeanor returned.

> "Jessie, James, and Meowth are also there," Matt answered, "along with the Ketchum kid."
 Shane sighed. He did not want to get involved with Ketchum just yet. Team Rocket was still rebuilding itself after its last encounter with him.

> "Does he know about them?" Shane asked.
 The younger sixteen and ten year old nodded. "Let's hope his foolishness pays off," he said as he canceled the connection.

"Our next match is between James and Cassidy," the announcer said over the speakers.

> "Good luck," Jessie said as she unknowingly gave him a kiss on the cheek.
 James blushed, and Jessie joined him when she realized what she did.

> "Thanks," he said as he entered the arena. He looked over at his opponent.
 "You?" he shouted at her.

> "Miss me?" she jeered.
 "This is a two-on-two match," the judge said to the trainers. "No time limit. Begin."

> "Time to show you pathetic loser who the real Team Rocket is," Cassidy sneered as she tossed in a pokÃ©ball.
 "Primeape," the pokÃ©mon shouted.

> "Good think I'm no longer in it," James called back. "Last I heard, the boss was in jail."
 He threw a pokÃ©ball, and an Exeggcute appeared.

> "Primeape, low kick," Cassidy ordered.
 "Exeggcute," James called, "stop it with disable."

> "Egg," it replied as its eyes began to glow.
 "Prime?" Cassidy's

pokémon asked when it could no longer move.
> "Now, use egg bomb," James shouted.
 Primeape fainted after this finally attack. Cassidy recalled it and threw in Flareon.
> "Fire blast," she shouted before James could give an order.
 Flareon's blast was too much for the pokémon who fainted from it.

> I only got one water-type, James thought. _I hope Slowpoke can do it._
> "Go, Slowpoke," he shouted as he tossed in the pokéball.
 "Slow," it greeted.
> "Flareon, quick attack," Cassidy said.
 "Flare," it said as it ran circles around Slowpoke before attacking it.
> "Slowpoke," James cried. Luckily the pokémon only took minor injuries. "Use water gun."
 Slowpoke tried its best, but Flareon was too fast for it.
> "Now," Cassidy smirked when she saw she was winning. "Rage!"
 Flareon's black eyes turned red as it attacked Slowpoke. Slowpoke cried out in pain.
> "Enough," James shouted. "Slowpoke, return."
 With James ending the match, the judge raised the red flag of Cassidy. "Sorry, loser," she mocked as she left the field.
> James dropped his head as he walked outside of the gym.
 "James!" a voice from behind shouted.
> He turned and saw Jessie running up to him. "Hi," he sadly greeted.
 Jessie looked at her old friend. His hopes were dashed at winning control of the gym, but she knew losing to Cassidy made it even worst.
> "Team Rocket is going to get the gym back," he sighed.
 "Not if I can help it," another voice replied.
> They turned and saw AJ walking up to them. He had won his match earlier that morning and was going to the finals. "I'm the best there is," he told them, "and I ain't going to lose to no Rocket."
 Jessie and James laughed. He had as much confidence in himself as Ash. "Good luck, then," James said as he offered his hand.
> "Thanks," AJ replied as he shook it, "but you need it more than me."<p>

While Jessie consoled James after his defeat, Ash, Misty, and Brock along with Meowth and Pikachu were watching the final match between AJ and Cassidy.
> The judge announced that each trainer could use two pokémon and AJ would start the match.
 "Go, Sandslash," he called as his pokémon jumped into the arena.
> "Wartortle," Cassidy yelled. "I choose you."
 "Sandslash," AJ called, "fury swipes."
> "Wartortle, water gun," Cassidy yelled.
 Even though the stream of water hit Sandslash square on the chest, it kept coming closer to Wartortle.
> "What?!" Cassidy shouted. "He should be out cold from a blast like that!"<p>

Ash laughed from up in the stands. "AJ sure trained him well," he commented.

> "Unlike some trainers," Misty replied.
 Ash looked at her. "You're never going to stop trying to get under my skin, are you?"

> Misty laughed. "Nope."<p>

Wartortle was thrown onto the ground after Sandslash performed a seismic toss on it. Cassidy recalled it.

"Mind if I have a look?" Tracey asked Dr. Eve.

> "Go ahead," she replied as she stepped out from in front of the engraving.
 He quickly made a sketch of the engraving.

> "Any idea what it means?" he asked as he was finishing the drawing.
 Eve leaned in closer to the engraving. "It's older than most of the carvings in other parts of the city," she said as she studied the foreign language. "I think it says: _None may enter but Destiny_."

> She turned to the Pok mon Watcher. He arrived a few days ago to deliver the book she had given to Ash. The results of the testing did verify the book was older than Pok mopolis, but its date was also before the earliest Destiny legends. She had managed to translate portions of it, but some parts were dialects she did not recognize.
 "There's something unusual about this word," she said as she traced her fingers across the word.

> "What's so unusual?" Tracey asked.
 "Well," she replied. "It's the word for 'Destiny.' Nothing strange there, but it's in a male form. Normally it's female."

> "Maybe it's a mistake," Tracey shrugged.
 "Possibly," she agreed. "We can find out more information when we get inside."

> Tracey gulped. "What about the warning?"
 "Don't worry about that," Eve laughed. "Many of these old ruins have stuff like that."

> She looked at the concerned look on Tracey's face. "Still," she continued, "we'll be careful."
 She pulled out a hammer and chisel and slowly clipped the mortar away from the engraving. Once it was removed, Tracey used a crowbar to enlarge the hole so they could slip through. Before entering the opening, Eve shined a flashlight inside.

> "See," she told Tracey. "There's nothing to worry about."
 They then entered the dark chamber.

"Care to explain yourself?" Rob asked his younger brother Jake.

> "I knew Butch and Cassidy couldn't win the gym with the pok mon I gave them," he told his older brother.
 "Now why did you do that?" Matt demanded.

> Jake glared at his brothers. "Why should Team Rocket be running a gym?"
 "It was Father's pleasure," Shane replied before the others could speak, "but I had my own uses for it."

> "Like what?" Jake demanded.
 "It would've been our foothold into the Pok mon League," Shane informed his younger brothers. "Now, we have little influence inside the league."

> Shane stepped closer to his brother. "Team Rocket is under my control now," he told him. "That means, you are under my control."
 Jake glared at him. Rob and Matt might fear Shane, but he had his own plans. "Yes, sir," he snarled.

> "Good," Shane replied as he turned to his other brothers. "We have more pressing issues than the gym to consider."
 Rob nodded. "Many of the high ranked members of Team Rocket were arrested with Dad," he informed his brothers. "The rest were in deep cover assignments so I have no means of contacting them."

> Matt smiled. "I know of three we could bust out," he smiled.
 His three older brothers looked at him. Being the youngest, Matt was more of a lackey than one of the Rocket Brothers. "Go on," Jake replied.

> "Three members were arrested about two months before Dad," he told them, "but their trial was only a few days ago."
 "So how does that help us?" Rob asked.

> "They're being transferred to the maximum security prison on Cinnabar Island," he continued. "We could hit the transport and bust

them out."
 Shane thought about that. "Who are they?"
> "Scott and his team," Matt smiled. "The TR Psychics."<p>

Tracey was shining his flashlight around the chamber. On the walls were several carving of ancient pokÃ©mon.

> "Aerodactyl, Omanyte, Kabutoâ€|" he said as he listed the ones he recognized. "What is this place?"
 "Look over here," Eve replied. "These images are of more recent pokÃ©mon. Only, they are in their lower evolutionary states."

> While sketching the carvings on his pad, Tracey thought he heard something moving behind them. Glancing over his shoulder, he did not see anything but shadows.
 "I believe I finally found it," Dr. Eve said as she approached the center of the chamber.

> "What is this place?" Tracey asked as he heard movement behind him again.
 "The temple of Destiny," she answered.

> Suddenly, a pair of bright red lights appeared in the darkness.
 "What's that?" Tracey shouted.

> The light from outside the opening was beginning to fade. Tracey and Eve turned around and saw the door was resealing itself.
 "We got to get out of here," he said as he grabbed the young archeologist's hand.

> Before he could make to the narrowing hole, something very heavy hit him on the back of the head. He fell to ground and heard Eve scream before he passed out.<p>

"Where to now, Ash?" Brock asked the younger boy.

> "I thought that maybe we could see if Dr. Eve will let me see that book again," he replied as they walked down the path.
 "Why are so interested in that book?" Brock asked. "It's not like you could understand it."

> Ash let out a nervous laugh. He never fully explained the whole Destiny thing to Brock and Misty. He still did not understand it all. That was the reason that he wanted the book.
 "I thought maybe she could tell me more about Destiny," he replied.

> Brock shrugged it off. He was getting a chance to spend time with a pretty girl.
 Ash sighed when Brock stopped questioning him. He hoped Misty would not start on him. His dream never came true.

> "Ash, why are being so secretive again?" she asked.
 "There are some things that I just can't tell you," he replied. "At least, not yet."

> Misty sighed. Her boyfriend had been acting weird since he woke up from a nightmare last night, and it worried her.
 "Ash, please tell me what's wrong," she told him.

> Ash lowered his head. "I'm sorry," he said, "but I don't understand it all."
 Misty thought about another tactic that usually worked. "Just because you're the new Destiny, doesn't mean you have shut out your friends!" she shouted at him hoping he yell back what was wrong.

> "Why can't you see that I have to do this alone!" he snapped back.
 His remark shocked Misty. This was the first time he snapped back angry at her since they started seeing each other. She turned and walked ahead to where Brock and Pikachu were.

> "Wait, Misty," Ash called. She ignored him as she started to talk with Brock.
 "Great going," Ash chided himself. "Now you've gone and made her mad."

When they arrived at Dr. Eve's camp, her assistants were running around calling out her name. Ash managed to catch one who was running to check forest for her.

> He explained that she and Tracey went into a section ruins that

they had recently uncovered yesterday but never returned.
 "Have you checked in the ruins yet?" Ash asked.
> "Yes, you idiot," the assistant snapped. "That was the first place we checked."
 "Sorry," Ash replied.
> "I don't got time for this," the assistant said as he ran off into the forest.
 "Touchy, wasn't he," Ash remarked.
> "You would be too if Misty just disappeared," Brock replied.
 "Pika," Pikachu agreed.
> Ash felt his chest getting warm. He looked down and saw the medallion glowing. "It's doing that glowing thing again," he said to himself.
 He looked at the ruins of the ancient city. "Come on," he told them as he ran into the ruins.
> "Wait for us, Ash," Misty called after him.<p>

Inside the ruins, they followed the cables for the lights until they reached the end of the tunnel.
> "Dead end," Brock sighed.
 Ash looked at the engraving on the wall. "Maybe not," he said as he knelt down to get a better look. He noticed that the pokéball medallion was glowing even brighter.
> "Ash?" Misty asked.
 He looked at the engraving. "None may enter but Destiny," he thought. "But I'm Destiny."
> He stepped away from the wall and pulled out a pokéball.
"Charizard, I choose you," he said as he threw the pokéball to the ground.
 "Ash, what are you doing?" Misty asked.
> "Making a way in," he replied. "Charizard, blast a hole through that wall."
 Charizard roared and blasted the wall. When the hole was big enough for them to enter, Ash recalled the pokémon since it was too large to enter the hole.
> "Ash, why did you do that?" Misty asked.
 Ash walked in. "I had to," he answered.
> Misty, Brock, and Pikachu looked at each other. "He's acting really weird," Brock said to the others.
 They pulled out some flashlights from their backpacks and followed him in.

Ash saw two people lying on the floor of the chamber when he stepped in.
> "Tracey, Dr. Eve!" he cried as he ran to them.
 He shook Tracey until he heard a moan. "Something got me from behind," he said as he opened his eyes.
> "Just stay still," Ash said as he checked Eve.
 When Brock and Misty entered the chamber, they ran over to their friends. "Are you okay?" Brock asked as Tracey tried to sit up.
> "Yeah," Tracey replied with a moan. "I just got one bad headache."
 "What happened?" Misty asked.
> Two red lights answered her question. Ash jumped in between his friends and the glowing lights.
 "I am—" he stopped. Somehow, Ash Ketchum did not fit the end of that sentence anymore.
> "I am Destiny," he finished.
 The two red lights drew closer, leaving the shadows. A large Marowak stood before him.
> "Destiny," it replied. "I have waited a long time for this."
 It raised its bone into the air. It began to glow and sent out a burst of light, blinding Ash. When his sight returned, he saw his friends were gone and the chamber was lit by several torches.
> "Who are you?" a voice cried out from behind him.
 He turned around and saw a man dressed as a priest holding a staff in his hands.
> "I don't think I'm in Kansas anymore," Ash said as he raised his hands.<p>

6. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> PokÃ©mon: Masters

PokÃ©mon: Masters

> Chapter Six â€" Losing Your Way<p>

"I said, who are you?" the priest asked again.

> "I'm Ash Ketchum," he replied.
 The man frowned. "Ketchum? Never heard of that clan," he grimaced. "Where are you from?"

> "Pallet, sir," he answered.
 "You seem to come from nowhere, young man," the priest said as he lowered his staff. "Are you a pilgrim?"

> "Yeah," Ash lied.
 "Then I'll allow you some privacy while you pay homage," the priest said as he exited the chamber.

> Ash let out a sigh of relief when he was finally alone. He then noticed that his clothes felt different. He looked down and saw he was wearing a robe similar to the priest's but it was brown and made of cheaper material.
 "This is too weird," he thought as he looked around the chamber. It was the same chamber as before but only newer. The carvings in the wall were not as corroded as before, and torches lit the room.

> So taken back by his surroundings, Ash did not noticed someone else had entered the temple.
 "Hello," a voice said from the once sealed doorway.

> Ash turned and saw a girl about his age standing there. She was wearing a priestess robe with her long blonde hair tied behind her head.
 "May I help you?" she asked.

> "Uh," Ash replied. "My name's Ash, and I seem to be a little lost. Can you tell me where I am?"
 "You must really be lost to not know this place," the girl laughed. "You are in the temple of the coming destiny."

> Ash frowned. This just keeps getting better, he sighed.

> "Can you tell me where the nearest town is?" he asked the girl.
 "That would be village in the forest," the girl replied "It's about a day's walk to the north."

> Ash thought about that. "Sounds like Viridian," he said to himself.
 "But you can't leave now," she told him, "it's almost night."

> The priest returned and saw the two talking. "Anna," he chided her, "what have I told you about disturbing the pilgrims?"
 "But he said he was just lost," she replied.

> The priest looked at Ash. "Is this true, young man?"
 "Yes," Ash replied hoping not to get the girl in trouble.

> "Well," the priest frowned. "You meant no harm in lying, I assume.

Just be on your way now."
 "Please, sir," Anna plead with the priest, "it's late, and the monsters in the forest will get him if he leaves now. Can't he stay the night?"

> The priest smiled at the girl. "Such a noble heart," he sighed. "Very well, he may stay the night."
 "Thank you, sir," she said.

> "Just make sure he does a chore or two to pay us," the priest replied as he left the chamber once again.
 Anna turned to Ash.

"You are lucky," she told him as she led him to a door he had not seen before. "Old Cecil rarely lets pilgrims stay here, let alone travelers."

> "What did you mean about monster in the forest?" Ash asked as she took him into what he thought was a library.
 "There are bug monster in the forest," she said as she went to a shelf and pulled down a book. "Didn't you know about them?"

> "I knew about the bug pokémon in the forest," Ash shrugged.

"Pokémon?" Anna said confused. "I never heard of that word. What does it mean?"
> "I'll show you," Ash said as he reached for a pokéball but found that they were all missing.
 "Great," he sighed. "I don't have my friends or my pokémon. Can this get any worse?"
> Anna looked at him as if he were crazed. "Ash, is everything all right?"
 Ash looked at an old book lying on a crude wooden table. "The Book of Destiny," he said. "What is it doing here?"
> "You are a strange one to know so little about this place," Anna said as Ash walked to the book. "Where else should the book of prophecy be but in the temple of the coming destiny."
 "You mean," Ash said with surprise in his voice, "that Destiny hasn't come yet."

> "No," she laughed. "If Destiny had come, why would we fear the monsters of the forest?"
 Ash was beginning to put two and two together. _That Marowak must have sent me back in time,_ he thought, _but why?_

> While still in thought, Ash heard a familiar cry coming from outside.
 "Squirtle! (Help!)"

> Ash ran outside and saw several beedrils attacking an injured squirtle.
 Ash grabbed a stick and waved it at the bug pokémon. "Get away from him!" he shouted at the bugs.

> Seeing the human coming, the beedrils flew back into the forest leaving the squirtle to human.
 "Are you okay?" Ash asked the pokémon.

> "What are you doing?" Anna screamed from behind.
 "Those beedrils were going to kill him," he replied as he picked up the fainted creature. "I couldn't let that happen."

> "But he is a monster," she yelled back.
 Ash shook his head. _Maybe I'm here to act as Destiny,_ he thought as he took the squirtle inside.

> "Ash, I will not allow you to take that thing inside the temple," she told him as he walked to the door.
 "I would think that Destiny would want people and monster to care for each other," he snapped back.

> "No," she replied standing in his way. "We are to rule over them."
 Ash shook his head again. "Then you better learn something different," he told her. "Now are you going to throw me out?"

> Anna was shocked by his response. Most people looked forward to the day when they would rule over the monster they feared now, but this boy was not afraid of them and wanted to care for them.
 "Who are you?" she asked again.

> "Just someone who wants to help an injured squirtle," he replied.
 "Cecil is not going to like this," she sighed as she let him in.

"All right, you three," the guard told the three teens in the boat, "don't try anything funny."

> "Relax," another guard told him. "With those psy-chains, they're not going anywhere."
 The boat ride to Cinnabar would take another two hours, and Jeff was getting anxious. "What I wouldn't do to get my hands on Sabrina and the Ketchum kid," he snarled.

> "Calm yourself," Scott told him. "We'll get our chance at revenge soon."
 "Quiet," the first guard told them.

> Suddenly, the boat was rocked from a hit on the port side. The guards' radio came on with a screaming voice. "We've been hit, it screamed. "Abandon ship."
 The three psychics grinned at the guards hurriedly unattached them from the boat. Once he was somewhat free, Jeff punched out one of the guards.

> "Hold it right there," the another shouted but was tripped by Mary since he just unchained her feet.
 "All right, Jeff," Scott told him, "get the keys and get us out of these chains."
> "Sure thing," Jeff replied.
 Once he found the keys on the fallen guards, he released Scott from the psy-chains. Scott then unlocked the chains on Jeff and Mary.
> Using his returned psychic powers, Scott blasted a hole in the side of the ship. Outside he saw a speed boat waiting for them.
 "Get in," said a black uniform Rocket.
> Leaping over into the boat, the three psychics saw another person on the boat.
 "I guess we should thank you," Scott said to the boy sitting on chair.
> "No need," the ten year-old Matt replied. "Just repay me the favor."
 "And would that be?" Scott asked.
> "Eliminate Ash Ketchum," Matt smiled.<p>

Ash sighed as he was busy washing the dishes in a stream. He been suck at the temple for almost a week now with no hope of returning to the future.

> "Stop that, Aqua," Anna laughed as she was playing with the squirtle.
 "They really seem to be getting along," Ash sighed as he finished with the dishes. "It reminds me of Pikachu."
> He walked over to the girl who was now tickling the laughing pokÃ©mon.
 "Thanks, Ash," Anna smiled as they walked back to the temple.
> "For what?"
 "For saving Aqua," she replied. "He really is a good monster."
> Ash laughed. He never thought of squirtles, even that Squirtle Squad, as monster before. They were just too friendly.
 "Maybe you should train him," Ash laughed.
> "Train?" Anna questioned. "For what?"
 "For battling," Ash replied. "That way, you don't have worry about the wild monsters."

> Anna looked down at Aqua. "But is he big enough to fight such larger creatures?"
 "With his water attacks," Ash told her as they walked in, "he can take on monsters several times his size."
> "Can we start tomorrow?" she asked.
 "Sure," Ash sighed. "Tomorrow we'll start."

After Cecil and Anna were asleep, Ash walked outside and looked up at the stars.

> "Misty, will I ever see you again?" he sighed.<p>

7. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> PokÃ©mon: Masters

PokÃ©mon: Masters

> Chapter Seven â€" Finding Your Path<p>

"Ash, wake up," Misty said as she shook the sleeping boy. "Of all the times to take a nap."

> The bright flash from the Marowak had left them all dazed for a few moments, but it had knocked Ash out.
 "Maybe we should get him out of here," Brock suggested.

> "I don't think that Marowak is going to let us," Tracey replied as he pointed to the Marowak now guarding the exit.
 "This amazing," Dr. Eve commented while ignoring the others. "These inscription are still intact."

> "How can you be thinking about stuff like that," Misty yelled at the young archeologist. "Ash is unconscious, a Marowak is blocking the door, our batteries are almost dead, and you just want to look at silly inscriptions!"
> "Well," Eve replied to younger girl. "This is what I do. Maybe there is something in here about all this."
> "Very well," Misty sighed.
> "Calm down, Misty," Brock said as he placed his hand on her shoulder. "I'm sure everything is going to work out."
> "Thanks, Brock," Misty whispered back. She looked over and stared at the Marowak blocking their freedom.
> _Why are you doing this? _she thought.
> Wait and see, another thought in her head told her.

"All right, Aqua," Anna said to her pok  mon. "Knock down that apple with your water attack."
> "Squirtle," the little turtle replied before he sent out a stream of water at the tree.
> The apple fell to the ground, and Anna ran and picked up.
> "Thanks," she said as she walked back to her friend.
> "Anna," Cecil called from the temple. "I need you and Ash to go to the village for supplies."
> Anna sighed. "Sure," she called back to her guardian as she went to find Ash.

She found Ash sleeping in a meadow near the forest.
> "Aqua," she said to the squirtle. "Wake him up."
> He drenched Ash who then jumped up shouting. When he was on his feet, he saw the girl and pok  mon laughing at him.
> "Very funny," he replied as he tried to shake some the water off. "Now I got to change."
> "Oh, you'll dry off," Anna replied while trying not to burst out laughing again.
> "Why did you wake me up?" he demanded.
> "Cecil wants us to go to the village," she answered.
> "Okay," Ash said as they started walking to the forest.

Along the way, Anna said she needed a rest. They stopped near a stream that Ash strangely remembered. Looking around, he saw that Anna was sitting in a familiar place.
> "This is where I first met Misty," he sighed.
> Anna smiled. Since he arrived a month ago, he talked about the girl at least once a day.
> "Don't worry, Ash," she comforted him. "I'm sure you'll see her soon."
> "I hope so," Ash sighed. "I really hope so."

Jeff walked up to a house wearing a suit and tie. _She'll know where he'll be,_ he thought as he rang the doorbell. _He is her son._
> The door opened, and Jeff was greeted by a "Mime?"
> "Who is it Mimi?" a voice called from inside.
> Jeff watched as the Mr. Mime stepped out of the way of a woman he was seeking.
> "How may I help you, young man?" she asked cheerfully.
> People this sweet should be put out of my misery, he reflected.
> "Hi, I am from the firm of Abra and sons," he replied. "We are searching for a Mr. Ash Ketchum."
> "Please come in," she said offering him to enter her home.
> "Is Ash here?" he asked as he walked in.
> "No," she replied as she showed him the way to the living room. "He went off with his friends to some ruins nearby."
> He handed her a business card. "Well, if he comes by," he told her

as he walked back to the door, "tell him to call his number."

"All right," she said as she let him out.
> "What nice young man," she commented as she went back inside.<p>

"Scyther!" a voiced screamed in the forest.
> "Of all the bug types," Ash said as he ducked under the blades of the enraged pok  mon, "we would have to run into a Scyther."
 Anna was hiding behind a rock afraid of the monster that was trying to kill her friend.
> "Aqua, do that attack I taught you," she told the little turtle.
 "Squirtle," he complied as he shot a stream of water at the Scyther.
> This only served to make the Scyther even angrier and take a new target.
 "Anna, look out," Ash called to his friend.
> The Scyther went straight for Aqua, knocking him down. It gave a triumph yell as it stood over the cowering squirtle.
 "No!" Anna shouted.
> Ash watching in amazement as her eyes turned gold. Soon, Aqua began to glow in the same color.
 "Aqua," Anna commanded, "hydro pump!"

> The squirtle let loose the massive amount of water onto the bug pok  mon sending it off to the horizon.
 "Destiny," Ash whispered.

> Anna turned to him with her eyes still glowing.
 "No, Ash," he replied.
> The forest began to fade away leaving only the squirtle. Ash was confused what was happening.
 "I am only Anna," she told him as her eyes returned to normal. "You are Destiny now."
> She laid her hand on the Squirtle's head. It began to glow again, but this it was the light of evolution.
 "Wartortle," he greeted.

> "How are you doing this?" Ash questioned.
 Anna smiled as once again Aqua evolved into Blastoise.

"This was my role as Destiny," she said to Ash as she patted her pok  mon. "I help to show pok  mon their full potential."
> She turned back to him. "You will do the same when time comes."
 Ash looked. "I think I understand."
> Ash then thought about the time he had spent with her. "Was that how it happened?"
 Anna let out a little laugh. "I was raised in my own temple," she told him. "And my first pok  mon was a squirtle named Aqua. The city of Pok  mopolis sprung up around the temple a few years after my passing."
> Ash watched as the temple returned but this time, it was not in the middle of the woods but in a busy city.
 "Before the great tragedy, my children lived here and taught others the secrets to becoming Pok  mon Trainers," she told him. "My son choose a hidden valley in the forest to serve as their retreat."
> "The Valley of Destiny," he reminded himself.
 "The book of Destiny as you call it was left in the temple at Pok  mopolis until the tragedy," she added.
> Ash watched as a giant Kadabra and Gengar began their battle in the city streets. While citizens of the city were running for their lives, a woman about the age of 25 was busy sealing the door to the temple. Beside her on the ground laid the book Dr. Eve had discovered.
 "She knew that the temple would be need again," Anna commented as watched her finish her task. "She left the bonekeeper to guard it until the second Destiny arrived."
> When the two giants held each other in a stalemate, Ash watched the

woman left up four objects, three black balls and the artifact that he found when they uncovered the ancient city. The objects sent out beams of light causing the pokémons to disappear.
 The woman let out a final sigh of relief as the pokémons were captured in the objects. She then raised her head and looked at the burning city. All the people were gone, and the jigglypuff that once guarded the city lied unconscious over a crumbling building.

> She dropped her head in defeat. After hiding the book and objects within the ruined city and placing the jigglypuff in an odd shaped statue, the woman walked outside her former city. Ash watched as her eyes became blue and the earth rose above the city forming a mountain.
 The scene faded as the woman walked crying into the forest. Ash turned Anna who was crying at seeing the sight.
> "So long ago," she whispered, "yet still so painful."<p>

Scott, Jeff, and Mary looked at the old ruins. Scott noticed that a strange presence was here.

> "This should be interesting," he commented as the three walked into the city.<p>

"Come on, Ash," Misty said as she tried shaking him again. "Wake up."

> "Please, Misty," Tracey as he tried to calm her down.
 "But we've been trapped down here all day," she whined, "and Ash hasn't stirred once."

> "I think I got it," Eve said as she looked away from an inscription on the wall. "Apparently this Marowak has been waiting for someone called the second Destiny."
 Misty looked down at Ash. "Guess this is what you get for trying to help people," she sighed.

> "Oh, it gets a lot worst little girl," a voice mocked.
 The Marowak, which had its back to the opening, was sent flying to Brock. It jumped back up and took a defensive position in front of Ash.

> "So, this is Ash's Misty," Mary said as she looked down at the girl holding Ash. "Not much to look at."
 "Don't be so harsh," Jeff laughed. "After all, Ash is no prize himself."

> "I wouldn't say that," Mary replied. "After all, he did somehow survive Scott."
 "Enough, you two," Scott snapped at his teammates. "We got business to take care of."

> He eyed the boy lying on the floor. "I don't know how you bet us," he said feeling that spot in his memory was erased, "but once we're finished with you, we'll take care of Sabrina."
 "Not if I can help it," Brock yelled back. "Go, Geodude."

> "Let's go, Scyther," Tracey joined in.
 As the two pokémons appeared next to Marowak, they glared at the three intruders.

> "Alakazam," Scott said as he tossed in a pokéball, "let's get this over with."
 The Geodude, Scyther, and Marowak glanced at each other and leapt in unison at the psychic pokémon. Unfortunately, it created a light barrier which blocked them from getting near it.

> "Now let the fun begin," Scott said as the eyes of the three psychics turned red.<p>

8. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> Pokémon: Masters

Pokémon: Masters

> Chapter Eight " One True Destiny<p>

"Now let the fun begin," Scott said as the eyes of the three psychics

turned red.

> "Alakazam, use psychic on Ash," Scott commanded his pok  mon, but while it was powering up for the attack, Pikachu shouted something at him.
 This froze Alakazam in his tracks, much to the disgust of its trainer.

> "I order you to destroy that boy," Scott repeated to the disobedient pok  mon.
 "Kazam," it replied.

> "What do you mean, no?" Scott shouted back. "Just take care of the other pok  mon while we handle this."
 What Scott did not see was that Alakazam was powering up his psychic attack and aiming at them.

> "KAZAM!" it shouted as the beam narrowly missed Jeff.
 "Why you little," Jeff yelled at the pok  mon. "Scott, recall that traitor."

> "Very well," Scott sighed, as he was forced to recall his most powerful pok  mon. "We'll just have to deal with these brats ourselves."
 Mary rubbed her hands together in joy. "Just the way I like it," she said as she focused on the elderly Scyther.
 "Scyther!" it screamed before it fainted from the pain.
 "Nice," Jeff remarked. "Now, my turn."

> He looked at Geodude who was pounding away at the barrier the psychics were creating.
 "Dude?" it said as the scene for him change.

> He was surrounded by blastoise, each trying to nail him with hydro pump.
 "Geo," he screamed while he tried to dodge them.

> "What's up with Geodude?" Misty asked as she watched the rock pok  mon swing at empty air.
 "Must be a confusion attack," Brock sighed. "Geodude, return."

> Jeff and Mary laughed as the three trainers were forced to decide how to battle. Marowak had retaken its defensive position between the Rockets and Ash.
 "What can we do?" Misty asked the two older boys. "Our pok  mon can't possibly stop those three."

> "Maybe if we let them all out," Brock suggested.
 "Pika," Pikachu agreed as he pulled all the pok  balls off Ash's belt.

> "Good idea," Tracey said as he released Marril and Venonat.
 "One or thousand," Jeff called at them. "We can take them all."

> "Vulpix, go!" Brock shouted as he released his only usable pok  mon.
 "All right, everybody out," Misty said as she tossed up her pok  balls.

> "Pi pikapi," Pikachu shouted to Ash's pok  ball. Suddenly all of them opened, revealing six very angry pok  mon.
 "Maybe we should retreat," Mary suggested.

> "No," Scott told them. "We finish this."<p>

"Ash," Anna told him after she composed herself, "your friends need you."

> Ash turned to her. "But I still don't understand everything," he replied.
 "Time will teach you," Anna told him.

> "I hope so," Ash said as Anna and Aqua disappeared into the shadows.<p>

"Brock," Misty cried as Pikachu collapsed on the ground, "this isn't working."

> He looked at all the fallen pok  mon on the ground. So far, they only managed to breach the barrier once with Charizard, but Scott took him out when he saw how powerful the dragon was.
 "We have no other choice," he said as he yelled to Squirtle to try a skull bash.

> Dr. Eve was caring for Misty's Psyduck who was knocked out when Mary caved in the ceiling over him, Bulbasaur, and Marowak.

"Starmie, Staryu, double team with water gun," Misty called to her two remaining pok  mon.

> Jeff laughed as he sent the three water-pok  mon to the far side of the chamber. That left only Jigglypuff and Snorlax able to battle.
 "Jigglypuff, sing!" Tracey yelled as he dodged an energy blast from Mary.

> The little pok  mon jumped back and prepared to begin her sleep song when Jeff disabled her voice.
 "Silence is golden," he mocked as Jigglypuff started to mutely cry.

> "It'll be okay," Misty said as she picked up Jigglypuff's pok  ball. "How about you take a rest?"
 "All right, Snorlax," Brock said to final pok  mon. "Body slam that barrier until it cracks."

> "Snor," it replied as it jumped up and crashed down on the barrier.
 "He's too heavy," Scott said as he strained to keep the huge pok  mon off their heads.

> "It's working," Misty cheered hopefully.
 "Time to sleep," Mary said in a soothing voice to the giant pok  mon hanging over them.

> "Snorlax," it yawned as it slid to the ground and fell into a deep sleep.
 "Great," Brock sighed. "Now we got two sleeping bodies to worry about."

> "We'll take care of one of them," Jeff called at them.
 Scott looked up, relieved that the strain on his psychic powers was over. "Is that all you got?"

> "Toge," the little egg pok  mon challenged as it leapt out of Misty's arms.
 "No, Togepi," Misty shouted as she reached to pick her back up. "You're too little to fight."

> "Aw," Mary mocked. "Mothers always want to keep their children under their wing."
 "That's why there are fathers," a voice from behind Brock, Misty, and Tracey called. "Togepi, use Angel Kiss attack."

> The little egg began to glow and started to float in mid-air. It passed through the Scott's barrier and kissed each of the psychics on the forehead stunning them.
 "Now, Proudness," he shouted to the pok  mon.

> The three psychics began to glow, but it faded away without harming them.
 "What feeble attacks," Jeff laughed. He started to create a energy ball when it exploded in his hands.

> "Jeff!" Mary yelled as she looked at her fallen comrade.
 Scott watched as the egg pok  mon hurried back to a confused Misty. "Show yourself Ketchum," he shouted.

> Ash walked between Misty and Brock while carrying Pikachu. "You want me," he replied. "Here I am."
 Scott's eye turned blood red as he began to focus all his energy, but it became too much for him to control.

> "Pride goes before the fall," Ash laughed as Scott tried to regain control over his own powers.
 Scott screamed in pain as he fell to the ground panting. "We'll be back," he muttered as he tossed a smoke bomb at the four trainers. When the smoke cleared, Team Rocket had vanished.

> "That was amazing," Tracey said as he began to sketch Misty holding Togepi. "I've never heard of those attacks before."
 "Togepi, are you all right?" Misty asked her little 'baby.'

> "Togeprrii," she cooed triumphantly from excitement of winning her first battle.
 Ash looked at the weak Pikachu he was holding in his arms. "We better get to a pok  mon center soon," he suggested as Brock retrieved all the fainted pok  mon.

> "Marowak," a weak voice called.
 The three turned around and saw the injured pok  mon leaning on its bone club.

> "My duty is done," it sighed. Slowly it began to fade away.
 "I

can finally rest," it said as it finally vanished.
> It was Dr. Eve who finally broke the silence. "This is all very confusing," she said as she walked to the opening.
 "I'll say," Misty agreed. "Ash, how did you do that?"
> "Honestly," Ash shrugged. "I don't know."<p>

Butch and Cassidy were walking down the halls of Team Rocket's headquarters when Scott and Mary came in while carrying Jeff.
> "Well," Butch said to Cassidy, "look what the cat dragged in."
 "Not now," Scott tonelessly replied. "We have to get Jeff to the infirmary."
> "What happened to you three?" Cassidy asked. "Tried to fight a pokÃ©mon match without pokÃ©mon again."
 Mary glared at her. "This kid was using attacks no one has ever seen before," she snapped. "Besides, I heard one Sandslash took care of all your pokÃ©mon."
> Cassidy gritted her teeth in anger as Butch held her back.
 "Please, ladies," Scott told the girls, "we have better things to do than watch a cat fight."
> "Yeah," Butch said to his partner. "We have to go see Shane now."
 "Fine then," Cassidy replied. She turned to Mary. "I'll see you later."
> "I look forward to it," she replied as the two dragged Jeff to the infirmary.<p>

"You shouldn't over-battle your pokÃ©mon like that," Nurse Joy chided the four trainers. "They all will have to remain here for three days."
> "Yes, ma'am," Brock sighed as he gazed at the nurse. "In the meantime, how about we go out for dinner?"
 "Young man," Nurse Joy replied as she raised her voice, "I would never date someone who mistreated his pokÃ©mon as much as you."
> She turned to walk back into the ward where their pokÃ©mon were resting.
 "Butâ€¦" Brock started.
> "Give it up, Brock," Misty told the older trainer. "I doubt she would believe you."
 "Prii," Togepi laughed.
> "I hope Scyther wasn't hurt too badly," Tracey said as they walked over to the couch in the lobby. "He is getting older now."
 "Don't worry, Trace," Ash replied. "He's too determine to let a little thing like this keep him down."
> "I'm thirsty," Misty said as they passed a drink machine. "What about you, Ash?"
 "No, I'm fine," he replied.
> Brock leaned over and whispered something in his ear.
 "Oh," Ash said as Brock shook his head. "Now that you mention it, I am kinda thirsty."
> You think he know better by now, Misty sighed.
> When Brock and Tracey where out of sight, Misty turned to Ash. "Care to explain all that?"
 "I don't think I can," Ash replied. "After that Marowak's flash attack, I dreamed that I was in the past. I was there for about a month and met Anna."
> "And who is Anna?" Misty asked with a jealous tone in her voice.
 Catching this, Ash replied, "She was a very pretty girl. Too bad she was one of my ancestors."
> Misty was about to pull out her mallet, when Ash quickly added. "She taught me a little about being Destiny."
 Misty calmed down a bit. "Is that how Togepi used those new attacks?"
> "Yes," he answered. "Who knows, I may get her to evolve."
 "Please, don't," Misty pleaded. "She's still just a baby."
> Ash gave her a funny look. "Must be that mother stuff Team Rocket was talking about."
 "Why you," Misty replied as she brought her mallet down on Ash's head.

"Boss?" Butch asked as he stuck his head into Shane's office.
 > "Butch, Cassidy, please come in," Shane replied.
 When the two entered the office, they were surprised that it was almost empty. Giovanni had kept souvenirs of his pok  mon journey on shelves in his office, and the other Rocket Brothers were known for filling their rooms with decorations and furniture. Shane was different from the others. His office was only furnished with a simple desk and some chairs. The only thing that decorated the room was the large window behind the desk.
 > "Have a seat," he instructed them as he turned away from the window and sat at his desk.
 Butch and Cassidy complied and waited for what was coming next.
 > "I assume you've seen or heard about Scott's team," he told them.
 The both nodded. "Did you also know that it was caused by Ash Ketchum?"
 > "The twerp?" Cassidy replied.
 "The same," Shane said. "He has been a thorn in the side of Team Rocket ever since the Viridian Pok  mon Center Incident."
 > Shane leaned on his desk as he continued. "My father tried to eliminate him as a trainer. I, however have no such conventions."
 Butch and Cassidy did not liking the sound of this. They knew Shane was a decent trainer, not quite the same level as his father, but he rarely battled. He preferred settling differences by using pok  mon to attack the trainer.
 > "The Pok  mon League Competition is coming up in two months," he told them. "That will be Ketchum's final battle, and you two while be the first wave."
 "Yes, sir," they both replied.

9. Default Chapter Title

> <meta name="Generator"> Giovanni leaned back in the chair he acquired for his cell

Pok  mon: Masters

> Chapter Nine      Let the Match Begin<p>

Giovanni leaned back in the chair he acquired for his cell. His 'cell' had been moved to a more isolated section of the prison where he was watched by easily persuaded guards. He had almost as much luxury here as he did at TRHQ.
 > He turned on the television to the Pok  mon League Competition.
 "This had been a major upset within the novice competition," the first reporter said. "Four rather unknown trainers have made into the semifinals."
 > "I wouldn't say they were unknown," the second reporter replied. "Richie Sparks and Gary Oak are third time returning challengers, and Ash Ketchum is the Orange League Champion. The fourth competitor, Rob Rocket, is the wild card in mix."
 "Isn't he the son of the former Viridian Gym Leader?"
 > Giovanni switched off the television. He was proud that one of his sons was a true pok  mon trainer even though he preferred to remain out of Team Rocket business.
 "Better get an update from Shane," he noted to himself as he laid down on his king size bed.

"I can't believe we made it this far," Ash told Richie over lunch.

> "Me neither," his friend replied as he took a bite out of his cheeseburger. "I thought that the last round would be the end."

"Hey, losers," a voice called from across the diner.

> "Great," Ash rolled his eyes. "Hi, Gary."
 Gary joined the two trainers at their table. "I thought I should come and meet the competition," he smirked.

> "Then how about I join in," a new voice added.
 The three turned to the newcomer. He, at the age of fifteen, was a little older than the other trainers were. He kept his black hair cut short unlike Ash.

> "My name is Rob," he greeted the three trainers.
 "Nice to meet you," Richie said as he shook Rob's hand.

> Gary also greet Rob but in a less friendly way. Ash, however, remained silent.
 "What's with you?" Richie whispered to Ash while Gary and Rob began to talk about their pokÃ©mon journeys.

> "I don't like that guy," Ash replied. "I especially don't like his family."
 "So Ash," Rob cut in, "I see we are the next match tomorrow."

> "I guess," Ash shrugged.
 Ash looked down at his watch looking for a reason to leave.

> "Five o'clock," he sighed thankfully. "I have to meet a friend at 5:30, so I better leave."
 "Smell ya later, loser," Gary called as Ash left.

"Meowth, it's good to be back in civilization," Meowth sighed as the trio walked to the PokÃ©mon Center.

> "Quit gripping," Jessie hissed at the pokÃ©mon. "It's been less than three months, and we already have four badges."
 "Oo," James said as he looked at the crowd. "There's Brock."

> They walked over the boy as he was being rejected once again.
 "Tough break," Meowth laughed. "You almost had that one."

> "Yeah," Brock sighed.
 "Cut it out!" Jessie yelled as she whacked the two with her fan.

> "Um, Jess," James said to the red-head, "I think they're out cold."
 "We'll see about that," Jessie replied as she pulled out a loudspeaker.

> "GET UP!" she yelled with it set to its highest volume.
 Brock and Meowth jumped up screaming in pain.

> "Now come on," she told the others.
 "I see time has not improved her," Brock sighed.

> "No," Meowth agreed, "but at least she's a better cook now."<p>

"May I help you," Nurse Joy asked James.

> "Are there any rooms available?" he asked.
 "Sorry," she replied, "but all the rooms and couches are already taken."

> He turned to Brock.
 "I don't think Ash and Misty would mind you three staying with us," he told them.

> "Thanks," James replied. "We'll just leave our pokÃ©mon here for the night."<p>

"Why happened?" Shane demanded from the two cowering Rockets before him.

> "Fifteen Officer Jennies threw us out," Butch replied.
 Shane sighed. "You are becoming just like Team Loser."

> Cassidy was offended by being compared to Jessie and James but was too frightened by Shane to respond.
 "Too bad Scott and his team are still out of commission," Shane added. "You two are all we have available."

> "What about your brother?" Butch asked.
 "He said he wanted to win the tournament without cheating," Shane replied. "Such absurd notations."

> "Yeah," the two agreed.
 "But that is his choice," Shane continued. "I guess I should let him deal with Ketchum."

"Move over," Misty said as she pushed Brock off the couch.

> "Hey," he replied as he landed on the floor. "When did this become couple's night?"
 Both of the couples blushed while their pok  mon laughed.

> "Maybe we should stay at the Pok  mon Center," Meowth suggested to Pikachu and Togepi."
 "Pikachu," Ash called to his pok  mon.

"Dinner time."

> "Pikapi!"
 He ran to his trainer who was waiting with a bottle of ketchup. Pikachu grabbed the bottle and began drinking the contents.

> "Slow down," Ash told him.
 "Here you go, Togepi," Misty said as she picked up the little egg.

> "Ash," James said as he took a bite out of a sandwich, "we heard something about you battling with Togepi."
 "Um, from where?" he asked.

> "We ran into some guys from Team Rocket," Jessie replied. "They told us what you did to Scott's team."
 "Well," Misty said as she handed Togepi some food, "he's not going to battle with her for a long time."

> Ash sighed. For the past month, he tried to convince Misty that Togepi should start training. When Togepi started crying after being hurt by Squirtle, Misty called off training.
 "You two sound like a married couple," James laughed.

> "Well, they practically are," Jessie commented.
 "Will everybody please cut out the married jokes," Ash blushed. "They're starting to get annoying."

"And welcome to the first of the semifinal matches," the announcer said over the speaker.

> "The red trainer is Ash Ketchum from Pallet Town," he continued. The crowd cheered wildly as he entered the stadium.
 "And the green trainer is Rob Rocket from Viridian City." Rob, however, received several boos from the crowd since most knew that his father was the leader of Team Rocket.

Giovanni leaned closer to his television. After over 10 years, another Rocket-Ketchum fight was on the air. He hoped the outcome of this match would be better than the others.

"Red lost the coin toss," the field judge called. "His pok  mon will enter first. This is a 6-on-6 match, no time limit."

> Ash turned his hat around and chose a pok  ball.
 "Squirtle, I choose you," he cried.

> Rob looked at the turtle standing in the arena.
 "A water type," he smirked. "If I was my father, you might have beaten me."

> He pulled a pok  ball out of his coat pocket. "Voltorb, go!"
 "Squirtle, stay away from that thing," Ash called as he thought up a strategy.

> If Squirtle gets too close the Voltorb will self-destruct, he thought, _but if he uses his water gun, it can electrocute him._

> "We got to take him down in one swipe," Ash yelled at his pok  mon. "Hydro pump!"
 "Voltorb, thunderbolt," Rob replied.

> As the stream of water from Squirtle hit the Voltorb, its electrical attack traveled to the turtle. The result was a double KO.
 "Both pok  mon are out," the judge called.

> "Squirtle, return," Ash said as he recalled his fallen pok  mon.

"Go, Bulbasaur."
 "You should really evolve your pokÃ©mon," Rob jeered at his opponent. "Arcanine, take care of that pest."
> "Bulbasaur, use solar beam," Ash called hoping the advanced attack would take care of the fire pokÃ©mon.
 "Arcanine, fire spin," Rob commanded his pokÃ©mon. Once again, the result of these attacks was another double KO.
> "This is amazing folks," the announcer said over the speaker. "Never before has there been two double knock out in the same match. This match may be in the history books."
 Ash gritted his teeth. He only had four pokÃ©mon left.
> "The red trainer must throw in the next pokÃ©mon," the judge informed them.
 Ash nodded. "Snorlax, I choose you."
> "A Snorlax?" Rob question as the massive pokÃ©mon appeared. "This is going to be the most active fight in league history."
 Rob called in a Gloom.
> "Stun spore, now," he commanded.
 When the clouded of dust covered the field, Snorlax twitched its ear. He was annoyed by the dust since it prevented him from napping, but it did not paralyze him.
> "Snorlax, body slam," Ash called.
 The crowd watched in amazement as the giant pokÃ©mon walked through the cloud of stun spores unaffected.
> "Gloom, tryâ€¦|" Rob began as Snorlax collapsed on his Gloom.
 When Snorlax sat up, the flatten Gloom remained still.
> "Gloom is out," the judge called.
 "Yeah, three down, three to go," Ash shouted.
> Rob glared at the other trainer. "This isn't over yet, Ketchum."
 He pulled out his fourth pokÃ©ball.
> "Gengar, go!"
 The ghost pokÃ©mon greeted his opponent with a hypnosis attack.
> "Snorlax," Ash cried from the trainer's box, "wake up!"
 "Dream eater," Rob called to his pokÃ©mon.
> "Gen," it replied.
 Snorlax began to toss and turn from the nightmares the ghost was creating.
> "Snorlax is out," the judge called when Snorlax remained asleep for 10 minutes.<p>

"Now, both trainers have only three pokÃ©mon left," the commentator announced over the speakers. "What will be Ash's next choice to go against that Gengar?"
> "You can do it, Ash!" Misty shouted above the crowd.<p>

To be continuedâ€¦|

10. Default Chapter
Title